

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 24, 29, and 31-40, and have canceled claims 1-28, 30-31, and 33-40, during prosecution of this patent application. Applicants are not conceding in this patent application that said amended and canceled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, since the claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of this patent application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue said amended and canceled claims, and other claims, in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The Examiner indicated that claims 29, 32 and 41-48 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowed subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 112 rejection with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

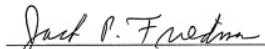
The Examiner argues: "Claim 31 recites the limitation "claim 30" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 30 has been canceled."

Since claim 31 has been canceled, the rejection of claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is moot.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0457 (IBM).

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